



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Statement In Response To Joint Declaration On The Complaints Review And Investigation Process

June 10, 2005

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- The United States applauds the signing by the EPRDF, the CUD and the UEDF of the June 10 Joint Declaration agreeing to a process to investigate and resolve electoral complaints. This Declaration is the key to ending election-related violence in Ethiopia. We commend the National Electoral Board (NEB) for immediately announcing that it agrees to the complaint review and investi-

gation process requested in the Joint Declaration. We support the agreement which com-

mits the parties to use only the established legal electoral mechanisms to determine the outcome of the elections, and affirms their commitment to abide by the results. The United States expects each party, after signing the Declaration, to abide by the letter and spirit of the agreement without adding conditions that were not part of the Joint

Declaration.

The United States has been dismayed and alarmed by the violence and deaths of the past week and extends sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased. We join Ethiopia's political parties in condemning all acts of violence and incitement to violence and urge all Ethiopians to act with restraint and respect towards their fellow citizens. We agree that se-

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U.S. State Department Statement on Ethiopian Election

Press Statement
Sean McCormack,
Spokesman
Washington, DC
June 13, 2005

Ethiopian Elections

The United States condemns the violence and unnecessary use of excessive force in the con-



Sean McCormack
Spokesman

tinuing election-related violence in Ethiopia. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those who have died. Reports of numerous arrests and detentions have increased tensions. We urge the government to respect the rule of law, international principles of human rights,

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Statement In Response To Joint Declaration On The Complaints . . .

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curity forces must maintain their professional role and not use excessive force. Reports of numerous arrests and detentions have increased tensions throughout the country, and we urge the government to respect the rule of law when maintaining order, respect the international principles of human rights, and apply due process to those arrested or detained.

It is essential that all Ethiopians live together and use the political

and legal processes to resolve differences peacefully. In this connection, the free flow of information is important, and we urge the government not to inhibit the work of Ethiopian journalists and to reinstate licenses for journalists from the Voice of America and Deutsche Welle so they can resume normal operations. Restriction on freedom of the press inhibits democracy and the ability of citizens to make informed decisions.

We urge all Ethiopians to wait for the investigations to conclude and to accept the outcome of a peaceful and democratic process. A resort to violence by any side puts democracy and the future of Ethiopia at risk.♦

Sate Department Statement on Ethiopian . . .

(Continued from page 1)

and due process with regard to those arrested or detained. The United States looks to the opposition parties to abide by the rule of law, to respect their commitment to end the violence, and to ask their followers to remain calm.

The United States commends the signing of the June 10 Joint Declaration by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces

(UEDF). The parties should abide by their commitment to the agreement without condition. We expect the parties to resolve electoral complaints through the established legal electoral mechanisms.

The United States commends the Ethiopian people for their peaceful and democratic expression of political will on May 15. The elections have immutably changed Ethiopia's political landscape and broadened that country's democratic horizon. We stand ready to assist Ethiopia as it meets these

new democratic challenges and looks forward to engaging all elements of civil society during this important period in Ethiopia's history. We are working closely with the European Union, African Union, United Nations, and others in this effort.♦

U.S. Government Provides Assistance in Response to Somali Region Floods

June 14, 2005

No. 27/05

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- In response to severe flooding in Somali Region, the United States Embassy through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Ethiopia provided US\$50,000 (423,500 birr) to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support emergency health interventions in flood-affected areas. In addition, USAID airlifted 500 rolls of plastic sheeting, 10,000 blankets, and 5,000 ten-liter water containers to assist affected residents.

Torrential rains in late April caused the Wabe Shebelle River to overflow, washing away entire villages in the surrounding areas of Somali Region. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that more than 100,000 people are affected by the flooding, including approximately 154 dead, with an undetermined number injured. Approximately 50,000 livestock have been lost, and farmlands, homes, wells, and bridges have been damaged or destroyed.

In 2005 to date, the U.S. Government has provided more than US \$277 million (2,335,500,000 birr) in humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia, including food assistance, emergency relief supplies, and support for health, nutrition, agriculture and livestock, water and sanitation, and rapid response interventions. USAID Ethiopia will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation in Somali Region. ♦



Camels and houses in flood area



Flooded house on road from Jijiga

Open Trade, Investment Will Fuel African Progress, Bush Says



President George W. Bush

There is a growing consensus in both Africa and the United States that open trade and international investment are the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make progress, President Bush said in a June 10 message to the African people.

In the message, broadcast on Voice of America, Bush said that nations prospering under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) are strengthening the rule of law, lowering trade barriers, combating corruption, protecting workers, and eliminating child labor. They are setting an important example for the entire continent, he said.

Audio and video files (<http://www.voanews.com/english/2005-06-08-voa66.cfm>) of the statement are available the Voice of America's Web site.



Following is the text of President Bush's statement:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
June 10, 2005

Message By The President To the People of Africa

For Voice of America

For the past several years, the United States has worked with African leaders on bold initiatives to encourage reform within the continent. Our goal is improve the lives of the African people, and our partnership is yielding results. The economies of many African nations are growing. And in sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, economic growth is now at its highest level in eight years.

The growth of your economies has been helped by strong trade ties between our continents. Last year I signed the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act, which will continue to reduce barriers to trade, increase exports, create jobs, and expand opportunity for Africans and Americans alike. This agreement is giving American businesses greater confidence to invest in Africa. It also encourages African nations to reform their economies. And the law is producing results: last year, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa increased 25 percent - and America's imports from AGOA countries rose 88 percent.

This success reflects the growing consensus in both Africa and the United States that open trade and international investment are the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make progress. AGOA nations are strengthening the rule of law. They are lowering trade barriers. They are combating corruption, protecting workers, and eliminating child labor. They are setting an important example for the entire

continent - demonstrating that governments that respect individual rights and encourage the development of their markets are more likely to grow economically and achieve political stability.

As we increase trade, we are also reforming the way we deliver aid. For too many years, our assistance to Africa was sent without regard to results. Under my Administration, U.S. development aid to African nations has increased, but we are not just giving more aid - we are being wiser about how it is spent.

The idea is based on common sense: aid works best in countries that are proving their commitment to govern justly, respect the rule of law, invest in their citizens, and open up their economies. When nations do these things and expand freedom and opportunities to all their citizens, entire societies can be lifted out of poverty and despair. In 2002, we launched the Millennium Challenge Account to provide aid to poorer nations based on these principles. In April, Madagascar became the first country to sign a Compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation - and I am confident that other African nations will follow.

At a time when freedom is on the march around the world, it is vital that the continent of Africa be a place of democracy and prosperity and hope, where people grow up healthy and have the opportunity to realize their dreams. Africa is a continent of promise, and the United States wants to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve. ♦

Science Can Help Unlock Africa's Potential, State's Turner Says

By Helen I. Rouse
Washington File Staff Writer



John F. Turner

the delivery, there will be noxious fumes and the danger of fire. But, thanks to a new lamp that runs on energy stored from the sun, there is no threat of flames and the baby's first breath is of pure air. The young mother names her son Solar.

John F. Turner, U.S. assistant secretary of state for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs, related this touching story to members of the National Academies in Washington June 7 as an example of how science can help solve the problems of the developing world.

Addressing the topic "Fostering Development in Africa and Finding Partners to Support That Commitment" at the Government University Industry Research Roundtable Meeting, held at the academies' headquarters, Turner expressed the Bush administration's "strong conviction that science and technology can significantly help unlock Africa's potential for social and economic development."

Turner saluted the National Academies for their "steadfast commitment to fostering development in

Africa and finding partners to support that commitment," such as the 10-year African Science Academy Development Initiative, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

This initiative, he explained, works directly with African academies of science to build their capacity to provide independent, objective, evidence-based advice to their governments and people on matters of health and science in order to increase the probability that decisions are made in the public interest.

The story of the Ugandan mother and her son Solar is an example of how one science-based project, the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP), is making a difference in the lives of everyday Africans, helping reduce poverty and boosting economic and social development through energy services.

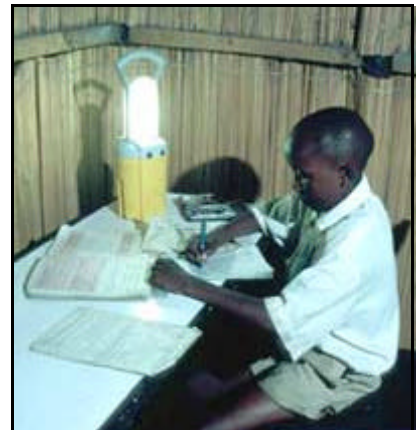
"The areas of water and energy are critical to a nation's development," Turner said. "The U.S. government has launched several promising partnerships to provide Africans with greater access to energy, clean water, and sanitation."

"In the first six months of 2004, for example, USAID spent about \$7.2 million to provide more than half a million people with access to clean, efficient, and healthy forms of energy," he said.

Official development assistance from the United States supports dozens of public-private partnerships that leverage resources beyond what can be provided by the U.S. taxpayer, Turner said. "Public-private partnerships among the U.S. government, other govern-

ments, businesses, and civil society groups," he added, "represent an innovative, exciting approach to development assistance."

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership, which unites governments, international organizations and business and environmental groups in an effort to establish networks of protected areas across west central Africa, is "a model for this new way of doing business," he said.



The solar lantern enables children to do their homework in the evening

With the goal of conserving one of the two largest intact tropical forests, the initiative offers local people a stake in the forest by promoting sustainable harvesting and providing livelihoods such as ecotourism, he explained, while serving as "a powerful mechanism for stemming the illegal commercial bushmeat trade and advancing the U.S.-led fight against illegal logging."

Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic

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Science Can Help Unlock Africa's Potential, State's . . .

(Continued from page 5)

of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of Congo "have courageously bet their future well-being on the benefits of forest conservation," Turner said, and the United States is matching that commitment with training programs, policy infrastructure, and management and enforcement regimes to make the partnership work.

United States' funds of \$53 million for the program will be matched by international conservation nonprofit organizations, Turner said, to develop as many as 27 new national parks and protect more than 25 million acres (more than 10,117,000 hectares).

"Why is Congo Basin a model partnership?" Turner asked rhetorically. "It integrates the goals of economic development, social advancement, and environmental stewardship. It unites a wide array of stakeholders. It is based on the plans of African nations themselves. It is designed to promote the rule of law and effective governance. And, finally, it builds the capacity of Africans and African institutions, including through the use of technologies such as remote sensing and GIS [geographic information systems]."

Turner described other science and technology programs that the United States is supporting in Africa, which use technologies that can be manufactured and maintained locally, thus creating jobs and contributing to economic development:

-- The Water for the Poor Initiative, the United States' flagship program, is a three-year, \$970 mil-

lion effort that includes more than 100 programs aimed at improving drinking water and sanitation, watershed management, and the productivity of water use in agriculture and industry through such technologies as locally developed clay-pot filtration devices, more advanced ultraviolet disinfection, or chemical treatments to disinfect

phone access to Africa's rural areas and bringing "Internet 2" to African universities will allow doctors to exchange data with their peers and provide health care to patients using "telemedicine."

-- Exploration of ways to help tap into the geothermal field that lies beneath Africa's Rift Valley can



Clean water means the children have energy enough to play, even when the road home is long.

and remove contaminants.

--The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, aims to reduce vehicular air pollution by promoting the elimination of lead in gasoline.

-- The Partnership for Clean Indoor Air works to increase the use of affordable, reliable, clean, efficient, and safe home cooking and heating practices that will affect the health and well-being of more than 2 billion people worldwide, especially women and children.

-- Extension of Internet and tele-

provide an environmentally friendly, cost-effective source of energy to the more than 90 percent of the 200 million people in this region who now live without electricity.

The National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council, bring together committees of experts who serve without compensation to advise the U.S. government and the public on all areas of scientific and technological activity. ♦

Africa Eager to Increase Its Share of World Trade

By Helen I. Rouse
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- African Union trade ministers meeting in Cairo June 8-9 are eager to increase Africa's share of the growing world market, according to Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Peter F. Allgeier, who met with the ministers June 8.

"All of us are committed to using the Doha negotiations to help reverse the trend that has occurred in Africa of a declining share of world trade," Allgeier said from Cairo during a June 8 telephone press conference with reporters in Washington.

"We think that the Doha negotiations can help to reverse that and allow [African countries] to take advantage of the great expansion in trade that has occurred over the last decade and that we expect to continue, and to be a leading factor in countries' economic growth, as it has been over the last decade for the United States and for the world generally," Allgeier said.

Allgeier and USTR senior trade negotiator Dorothy Dwoskin were invited to attend the meeting along with European Union Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson by Egyptian Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Rashid Mohamed Rashid, who hosted the African

Union trade ministers.

They participated in a discussion on the Doha Development Agenda, "which we were very, very happy to do, to meet with African ministers and to exchange views on how to move the negotiations forward and make them a success for all of the parties," Allgeier said.

The Doha trade talks are the result of a November 2001 declaration of the World Trade Organization's (WTO's) Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, that mandated negotiations on a range of trade issues.

All of the African Union countries were represented at the Cairo meeting, Allgeier said, either at the ministerial level or at a very high official level. "We had a very good discussion," he said, "and I think that this is helpful to us as we go back to Geneva for the negotiations."

The U.S. officials also had bilateral meetings with ministers from Egypt, Rwanda, Kenya, and South Africa, as well as Zambia, which is the chair of the 50 least-developed countries of the WTO for 2005, and Senegal, which will host the AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act) Forum in July.

When asked if the ministers discussed preferences, Allgeier re-

sponded: "We didn't get into details. They're concerned about it. But, I think, as Minister [Mukhisa] Kituyi of Kenya expressed it, we need to find 'a soft landing' for some of these areas of concern about preference erosion, which I think is very positive, because a soft landing, to me, suggests that it's part of a liberalization, and that's what these negotiations are all about.

"So it sounds, at least from his perspective, [as though] he's talking more about transition than opposition to liberalization."

Asked about possible concern among the Africans that textile and apparel production is moving increasingly to Asia -- and if there was any talk about shoring up those industries in Africa -- Allgeier said: "That's where AGOA really comes in [for] these countries, because that gives them the tariff preference that Chinese and other Asians don't have. But clearly there is a lot of concern here that even with that tariff preference, it's difficult to compete with some of the low-cost producers in Asia."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Developmental and Humanitarian Aid for Africa Grows

President Bush announced an additional estimated \$674.4 million in supplemental and other immediate emergency funding for Africa during 2005. During a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at the White House June 7, Bush challenged international donors to provide greater assistance to Africa to address critical and unmet needs identified by the United Nations.

A fact sheet issued by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) lists totals for developmental and humanitarian assistance the United States provided during 2004 and thus far in 2005.

While responding to current urgent needs, the United States continues to support African-led initiatives such as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program that can bring about policy changes, market improvements, and increased productivity to break the cycle of famine in Africa.

Following is the text of the fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

USAID PRESS RELEASE
June 7, 2005

Humanitarian Need and Funding for Africa

-- The U.S. provides humanitarian assistance to protect vulnerable populations and sustain development progress.

-- The U.S. provided over \$3.2 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to sub-Saharan Af-

rica in 2004, more than triple the amount provided in 2000.

-- The U.S. has also provided almost \$1.4 billion (Footnote 1) in humanitarian assistance to 32 African emergencies during fiscal year 2005. This includes assistance provided through the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (Footnote 2). In 2003 the U.S. provided over \$1.6 billion in humanitarian assistance to Africa, in 2002, over \$725 million.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (L) listens to President George Bush on 06/07

-- President Bush announced today an additional estimated \$674.4 million (Footnote 3) in supplemental and other immediate emergency funding for Africa this year.

-- The U.S. provides humanitarian assistance based on three criteria; humanitarian need, needs elsewhere in the world, and the U.S.'s ability to ensure that its assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries.

-- United Nations' appeals for humanitarian assistance to sub-Saharan Africa show approximately 44 million people through-

out Africa require humanitarian assistance (food, shelter, water, sanitation, health care and/or protection).

-- The United Nations indicates that only \$937 million of these needs have been received to date, leaving \$3.54 billion in needs still unmet.

-- Today, President Bush and Prime Minister Blair challenged our international partners in the donor community to provide greater assistance to Africa and address the critical needs that are represented by the unmet needs identified by the United Nations.

-- The U.S. also calls upon the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea to take additional reforms to mitigate the current food emergencies in their countries and to prevent future crises.

-- While recognizing current urgent needs, the U.S. continues to support African led initiatives such as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) that can bring about policy changes, market improvements, and increased productivity to break the cycle of famine in Africa.

Footnotes

1. State Dept. Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration- \$221 million plus USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance - \$172.8 million plus PL 480 Title II \$801.9 million plus first Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust release - \$162 million equals \$1,367.7 million

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U.S. Food Aid Helping Address Hunger in the Horn of Africa

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) released a fact sheet June 7 describing U.S. food-security assistance to address hunger in the Horn of Africa.

In addition to outlining the current food needs in Ethiopia and Eritrea, the fact sheet listed three key elements to reducing the risk of famine in Africa: improving early warning systems and other market-based information systems, increasing access to essential services, and expanding commercial smallholder agriculture.

The United States recognizes that food aid alone cannot break the cycle of famine, the fact sheet said, so it is helping leaders of famine-prone countries to expand their economies and ameliorate the underlying causes of food crises. Thus, the countries will be able to use their own resources to manage food crises in the future.

Following is the text of the fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

USAID PRESS RELEASE
June 7, 2005

Hunger in the Horn of Africa

Overview of Food Security Assistance

Emergency food assistance, like that being provided this year in Ethiopia and Eritrea, is necessary to save lives. The U.S. believes that without this assistance, the development track that these countries are on will be further

eroded, leaving populations at greater risk when the next food crisis occurs.

The U.S. recognizes that food assistance alone cannot break the cycle of famine. The U.S. is assisting leaders of famine-prone countries in growing their economies and addressing the underlying causes of repeated food crises. Our shared goal is for famine-prone countries to reach a state of development where they have the resilience to manage food crises utilizing their own resources.



There are three core elements to reducing the risk of famine in Africa:

- Improving early warning systems and other market-based information systems.

- Increasing access to essential services (i.e., health, education, sanitation) for the chronically food insecure.

- Expanding commercial smallholder agriculture. These activities include increasing capacity through sustainable agriculture, building effective markets, increasing productivity and promoting better management of economic resources and the environment.

ETHIOPIA

The U.S. government estimates that there are currently 12 million Ethiopians in need of urgent food assistance. This number is 3 million higher than the Ethiopian Government's current appeal.

The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) data, coupled with reports by USAID's Mission in Ethiopia and numerous nutritional surveys carried out by non-governmental organizations indicate that the number of people currently receiving assistance is significantly lower than the number of people in need. (Note: FEWS NET was created to strengthen the ability of African countries and regional organizations to manage the risk of food insecurity).

The transition to Ethiopia's "Productive Safety Net Program" (PSNP) increased the vulnerability in many regions because not all of the 5.4 million intended recipients are yet receiving adequate levels of assistance. (Note: in at least two regions, cash-based PSNP beneficiaries received only 20% of the assistance required.)

The Government of Ethiopia released a Flash Appeal to donors in May, 2005, reflecting an increase in the beneficiary numbers. However, the appeal was underestimated because it did not adjust beneficiary numbers in Amhara and the Somali regions, despite poor rains in both, in the early part of 2005. It also did not reflect the current flooding in the Somali region that is exacerbating an already critical humanitarian situa-

(Continued on page 10)

U.S. Food Aid Helping Address Hunger in the . . .

(Continued from page 9)
tion.

The Government of Ethiopia plans to conduct a needs assessment in June-July, 2005, to determine the impact of the rains on the Belg/Gu harvest. Historically, Belg/Gu assessments have shown significant increases in beneficiary numbers and food requirements, especially in pastoral areas (i.e., areas used primarily by herders).

The estimate of the number of vulnerable people in Ethiopia is based on accepted indicators of pre-famine and famine conditions, which include:

-- Distress Migration, Measles, Meningitis and Consumption of Famine Foods - Distress migration -- movement of people to other areas where food may be more available -- is occurring in many areas, often accompanied by the consumption of famine foods. Outbreaks of meningitis and measles have also been reported. Along with diarrhea, malaria and pneumonia these are the biggest killers in a food crisis. (Note: similar distress patterns were evident during the 2002-2003 Ethiopian

famine).

-- Deteriorating Malnutrition and Excess Under-Five Mortality - Recent surveys indicate that malnutrition rates are exceeding critical emergency thresholds. The "under-5 mortality rate" is now at a critical level, having reached 2 deaths per 10,000 per day.

-- High, Stabilized Price of Cereals - Food prices have remained high even in the post-harvest period. This has serious implications for poor households who rely on markets for a significant part of their food needs.

-- Excess livestock deaths - The Ethiopian Government states that animal deaths exceeded 50 percent in some areas of the Afar and Somali regions. This will have an adverse impact on the health and nutrition of the vulnerable.

ERITREA

An ongoing five-year drought, coupled with the impact of a labor shortage stemming from the military mobilization and a shortage of hard currency reserves, results in Eritrea being able to cover only

19% of its own food needs in 2005.

If there are any additional humanitarian crises or breaks in food deliveries, the situation could quickly become critical for the 2.2 million affected, as many households' coping mechanisms are already exhausted and their assets depleted.

In Eritrea, the general distribution rations have been cut to 60% to avoid food delivery breaks and some areas of the country that need assistance are not receiving assistance (e.g., urban Asmara).

While two-thirds of the population receives food aid in Eritrea, some populations, such as pastoralists (i.e., herders) have been even harder hit, resulting in a 70-80% depletion of their herds. FEWS NET reports indicate that these affected pastoralists may not recover.

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.S. Developmental and Humanitarian Aid . . .

(Continued from page 8)

2. A large percentage of U.S. Government assistance is channeled through non-governmental organizations and not reflected in the U.N. Appeals financial tracking tables; therefore, the amount of funding provided by the U.S. is not expressed as a percentage of the requirements reflected in the appeals as some NGOs do not list

their requirements therein.

3. \$90 million IDFA plus \$94.4 million MRA plus \$240 million PL480 Title II plus \$250 million Emerson Trust, 2nd release equals \$674.4 million.

(end fact sheet) ♦

Five African Leaders Meet with U.S. President in Washington

Speaking at the White House June 13, President Bush praised the five presidents of African countries visiting with him for the "strong statement" they made about democracy on the continent of Africa by holding democratic elections in the past year, and said he was honored to have those leaders at the White House.

"All of us share a fundamental commitment to advancing democracy and opportunity . . . and all of us believe that one of the most effective ways to advance democracy and deliver hope to the people of Africa is through mutually beneficial trade," Bush said.

Addressing an audience which included Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, ambassadors from the diplomatic corps, members of Congress and others instrumental in "moving the trade agenda forward" through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Bush praised President Mogae of Botswana, President Kufuor of Ghana, President Guebuza of Mozambique, President Pohamba of Namibia and President Tandja of Niger, saying he considered them "friends . . . strong patriots of their respective countries, and I consider them to be democrats."

He noted the "dramatic evidence of the results that the new engagement between the United States and Africa has produced exports to the U.S. from AGOA nations up 88 percent over the year before, and non-oil exports up by 22 percent," and said "we pledged to open our markets, we

have opened our markets."

U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa were up also, he said, proving that AGOA is a two-way street. "Across sub-Saharan Africa, economic growth increased to an eight-year high. Real per capital income increased by 2.7 percent, and this growth is expected to continue in 2005.

throughout the continent and the cancellation of \$40 billion in debt announced by the Group of Eight (G8, consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia), including that owed by 14 of the poorest African nations.

He also said fight HIV/AIDS is a "top priority" of his administration, citing lifesaving treatment provided



Standing with the Presidents of Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Mozambique and Niger, President Bush discussed the African Growth and Opportunity Act, AGOA, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, June 13, 2005.

"By creating jobs and lowering prices and expanding opportunity, AGOA is today developing benefits for Americans and Africans alike," Bush pointed out.

Bush noted other initiatives the United States is taking to help Africa's leaders bring democracy, prosperity and hope to their people, including \$674 million of additional resources as a down payment to help alleviate famine

to more than 200,000 sub-Saharan Africans that puts the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief well on the way to meeting the goal of providing treatment for nearly 2 million African adults and children within five years.

"Africa is a continent full of promise and talent and opportunity," Bush said, "and the United States

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Five African Leaders Meet with U.S. President . . .

(Continued from page 11)

will do our part to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve."

Following is the text of Bush's statement following the meeting with the African heads of state:

(begin text)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the White House. I want to thank the five Presidents who are with us today: President Mogae of Botswana, President Kufuor of Ghana, President Guebuza of Mozambique, President Pohamba of Namibia, and President Tandja of Niger.

We just had a great discussion. I consider these men friends, I consider them to be strong patriots of their respective countries, and I consider them to be democrats.

I want to thank Secretary of State Condi Rice for joining us today, and she was in the discussions we had earlier. I'm honored that the members of the Diplomatic Corps have joined us. I thank the ambassadors for being here. I appreciate members of the Congress being here: Senator Bill Frist, the Majority Leader is with us; Congressman Bill Thomas; Congressman Charlie Rangel of the Ways and Means Committee -- two fine members and I appreciate

you being here as a symbol of unity and support for the -- (laughter and applause) -- for moving the trade agenda forward. I appreciate Congressman Jim Kolbe from Arizona for being here, as well. Thank you all for coming, really are honored you're here and I know the Presidents are, as well.

That was certainly the idea behind the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a bipartisan act, an act of the United States Congress that recognized this fact. You see, AGOA is promoting democratic reform in Africa by providing incentives for these nations to extend freedom and opportunity to all of their citizens. Under this law, African nations can obtain greater access to our markets by showing their commitment to economic and political reform, by respecting human rights, tearing down trade barriers, and strengthening property rights and the rule of law, which is precisely what the leaders of these five nations are doing.

Because AGOA is producing results, I've twice signed into law provisions that build on its success and extend its benefits long

into the future. My predecessor worked with the Congress to get the law passed, I have been honored to work with the Congress to extend the good law. And the reason why I feel confident in going to the Congress is because it has worked. It's a good piece of legislation that has made a difference in people's lives.

In 2004, we saw dramatic evidence of the results that this new engagement between the United States and Africa is helping pro-



President Bush walks with the Presidents from Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Mozambique and Niger along West Executive Avenue at the White House Monday, June 13, 2005.

All the Presidents gathered here represent countries that have held democratic elections in the last year. What a strong statement that these leaders have made about democracy and the importance of democracy on the continent of Africa. All of us share a fundamental commitment to advancing democracy and opportunity on the continent of Africa. And all of us believe that one of the most effective ways to advance democracy and deliver hope to the people of Africa is through mutually beneficial trade.

(Continued on page 13)

Five African Leaders Meet with U.S. President . . .

(Continued from page 12)

duce. Last year, exports to the United States from AGOA nations were up 88 percent over the year before, and non-oil exports were up by 22 percent. In other words, we pledged to open our markets, we have opened our markets, and people are now making goods that the United States consumers want to buy. And that's helpful. That's how you spread wealth. That's how you encourage hope and opportunity.

Over the same period, interestingly enough, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa were up 25 percent. In other words, this is a two-way street. Not only have folks in Africa benefited by selling products in the United States; American businesses, small and large, have benefited through the opening of the African market, as well. Across sub-Saharan Africa, economic growth increased to an eight-year high. Real per capita income increased by 2.7 percent, and this growth is expected to continue in 2005. By creating jobs and lowering prices and expanding opportunity, AGOA is today developing benefits for Americans and Africans alike, and that's important for our fellow citizens to understand. Trade is beneficial for the working people here in America, just like it's beneficial for people on the continent of Africa.

We will continue to work for policies that build on these impressive results. In December, I announced that 37 African countries are now eligible for AGOA benefits, and next month in Senegal, senior ministers from my administration will meet with government ministers from these 37 AGOA nations to build on this progress. These representatives will be joined by hun-

dreds of American and African businesses and private organizations who will discuss ways to promote development and strengthen civil society.

As we expand our trade, the United States is committing to expanding our efforts to relieve hunger, reduce debt, fight disease on the African continent. One thing we discussed was the Millennium Challenge Account, and I assured the leaders we will work harder and faster to certify countries for the MCA, so that MCA countries, and the people in the MCA countries, can see the benefit of this really important piece of legislation and funding.

I also announced last week that the United States will provide about \$674 million of additional resources to help alleviate humanitarian emergencies in African nations, especially the growing famine in parts of Africa. On Saturday, we also announced an agreement worked out through the Group of Eight Industrialized Nations that will cancel \$40 billion in debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest nations, including 14 in Africa. The countries eligible for this relief are those that have put themselves on the path to reform. We believe that by removing a crippling debt burden, we'll help millions of Africans improve their lives and grow their economies.

Finally, one of the greatest causes of suffering in Africa is the spread of HIV/AIDS. I appreciate Randy Tobias being here. I made fighting this terrible disease a top priority of my administration by launching an emergency plan for AIDS relief. Working with our African partners, we have now deliv-

ered lifesaving treatment to more than 200,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa, and we're on our way to meeting an important goal -- an important five-year goal -- of providing treatment for nearly two million African adults and children.

The United States of America is firmly committed to working with government to help fight the pandemic of AIDS. It is -- this crisis is one that can -- that can be arrested. And I want you all to know that when America makes a commitment, we mean what we say, and this government means what it says, and this Congress means what it says, and we'll work together to fight HIV/AIDS.

These are just some of the initiatives that we're pursuing to help Africa's leaders bring democracy and prosperity and hope to their people. The reason I ask these Presidents to join us today is because I applaud their courage, I appreciate their wisdom, I appreciate them being such good friends that they're able to feel comfortable in coming to the White House to say, Mr. President, this is going well and this isn't -- how about working together to make this work better. That's how we solve problems. We solve problems by having a frank and open dialogue.

We believe Africa is a continent full of promise and talent and opportunity, and the United States will do our part to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve.

Again, I'm honored you all are here. Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all. (Applause.)

(end text) ♦

State Dept. Report, June 9: NATO to Airlift AU forces to Darfur

NATO TO COORDINATE AIRLIFT SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN UNION PEACEKEEPERS

In what Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns has called a historic decision, NATO announced June 9 that it will coordinate airlift support to bring additional African Union (AU) peacekeepers into Sudan's Darfur region.

Burns, in London June 6 for a meeting of the political directors of the Group of Eight industrial nations, told reporters that this was not a traditional NATO operation.

"It's actually the African Union that has the lead, and the African Union is doing the job," he said. "We're not talking about putting thousands, or even hundreds of Europeans and Americans into Sudan, we're talking about giving them [the AU] the military supports so they can do the job."

The African Union last April asked both NATO and the European Union (EU) for logistical support to more than double the size of its peacekeeping troops in the Darfur area, where tens of thousands have died in a conflict between African Sudanese and ethnic Arab fighters. The United Nations says more than 3 million displaced persons in Darfur need emergency assistance.

Both NATO and the EU will conduct airlift operations that, accord-

ing to a NATO press release from its June 9-10 defense ministerial meeting in Brussels, Belgium, will be coordinated from Europe, with the AU responsible for coordinating the movement of its incoming troops on the ground from the



NATO defense ministers gave the green light on June 8 to an operation to airlift extra African troops to Sudan's troubled Darfur region, the alliance's first mission on the continent.

Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. NATO will also provide training in managing a multinational military headquarters and intelligence exchanges.

The airlift, to begin July 1, will help the AU increase its peacekeeping force in the region from 2,700 to more than 7,000. Three new battalions will come from Rwanda, two from Senegal and Nigeria, and one from South Africa. Burns said the United States and Canada, working through NATO, have committed to providing more than half the airlift needed. France will work through the EU program to provide airlift for the Senegalese forces.

The amount of urgent work to be done in Darfur, he said, assures that both organizations have a role to play in assisting the AU.

Burns said the political and military emergence of the AU as an effective peacekeeper is a hopeful development and that an increased presence of its troops in Sudan would be invaluable in providing security to relief workers in Darfur and in supporting the January North-South peace agreement to end its 21-year civil war.

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Africanists Concerned About Slipping Museveni Legacy in Uganda

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer



President Yoweri Museveni

Washington -- Cracks are beginning to appear in one of Africa's greatest political and economic success stories, Uganda, with the man who guided the nation from the brink of disaster in the mid-1980s, President Yoweri Museveni, jeopardizing a bright legacy with "faltering" leadership, Africanists claimed at a June 2 panel discussion.

The discussion featured former U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Johnnie Carson, Ugandan Minister for Internal Affairs Ruhakana Rugunda, and Joel Barkan, professor of political science at the University of Iowa and specialist in East African politics. It was sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) at the Wilson Center in Washington.

The panel was moderated by former Congressman Howard Wolpe and drew a high-level audience that included former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen and former U.S. ambassadors to Uganda

(Michael Southwick, Nancy Powell), South Africa (Princeton Lyman), and Ethiopia (David Shinn). Ugandan Ambassador Edith Ssemplala and Rwandan Ambassador Zac Nsenga also attended.

Ambassador Carson addressed the topic "An African 'Success' Past its Prime" and called President Museveni "an astute and remarkable" leader who brought peace and a measure of prosperity to Uganda, which earlier had been one of Africa's most notorious "killing fields."

Through acts like welcoming back more than 70,000 Asians expelled from Uganda during the murderous regime of President Idi Amin and returning their property, Museveni proved he is "one of the most influential and intelligent leaders on the continent," Carson said.

Museveni also "recognized the devastating impact HIV/AIDS was having on his country and was the first major African leader to speak publicly about the dangers of the HIV/AIDS virus to the continent. He mobilized his entire government to combat this threat and he established Africa's first nationwide prevention effort," the diplomat added.

But that sterling legacy is being undermined, Carson said, by Museveni's need to control the political process, his failure to tackle corruption -- "a cancer eroding donors' ability to help Uganda" -- and an inability to bring an end to a long-term insurgency in the northern part of the country.

Carson, who is now senior vice

president of the National Defense University and formerly served as U.S. ambassador to Kenya and Zimbabwe, stated, "There is no doubt that Museveni's initial reforms, many of which I witnessed on the ground, set the stage for Uganda's economic revitalization, its renewed political stability, and its early efforts to re-establish strong democratic institutions."

However, he warned, today "Uganda's march toward full democracy is on the threshold of becoming unglued as President Museveni and those around him seek to alter the country's constitution to allow him to run for a third and perhaps even a fourth or fifth presidential term.

"How President Museveni deals with issues like presidential term limitations, the expansion of multi-party politics and the LRA [the rebel Lord's Resistance Army] violence in the north will depend on what type of legacy he wants to leave behind for himself and for Uganda: one in which economic growth, democratic progress and political stability prevail, or a nation that is faced with a new round of destabilizing political challenges and continued civil conflict in the North," the U.S. diplomat said.

"Although many will suggest these are national decisions, in reality the decision is his [Museveni's] [and] the outcome will surely affect all Ugandans and perhaps others as well," Carson told the panel.

Joel Barkan called Museveni "a brilliant leader, who now risks squandering his own legacy to his nation" by refusing to abide by the

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G8 Finance Ministers Agree to Cancel Debt for 18 Nations

The Group of Eight (G8) finance ministers have agreed to a proposal canceling 100 percent of debt obligations owed to the World Bank, African Development Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) by 18 countries, says Treasury Secretary John Snow.

The G8 comprises of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia.

In a June 11 statement following the G8 finance ministers meeting in London to prepare for July's G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, Snow said, "Relieving poor countries from their debt burdens so they can focus on meeting their development goals is an important element of President Bush's comprehensive development strategy for Africa."

The proposal, put forward by the United States and the United Kingdom, will provide immediate debt relief for 18 countries eligible un-

der the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative including Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana and Mali.

"IMF debt relief would be financed by existing IMF resources and would require no use of gold," the treasury secretary said.

Snow noted other countries

Turning to improving economic growth, Snow called for "vigorous structural reforms" in Europe and Japan as well as "increased exchange rate flexibility" in Asia.

The secretary emphasized the importance of working to develop free trade to solidify gains for democracy and cited U.S. free-trade agreements (FTAs) in the Middle

East and ongoing work in Latin America with the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

Regarding terrorist financing, Snow urged other nations to strengthen multilateral efforts to freeze terrorist assets and improve information sharing.

"We believe efforts to disrupt the financing of terror are succeeding and must continue," he said.



Finance Ministers from the G8 countries gather for a pre-G8 summit meeting in central London, Friday June 10, 2005.

would be eligible for debt forgiveness as they fulfill their obligations under the program by improving governance, reducing corruption, and working with the IMF to develop "sound economic policies."

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Exceeding Goals, Tobias says

President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has marked a "turning point" in the fight against the deadly virus and is exceeding its goals on anti-retroviral treatment, Ambassador Randall Tobias, the U.S. AIDS coordinator, told reporters June 13.

Tobias' briefing at the State Department followed President Bush's discussions on AIDS, trade and debt with five African heads of state at the White House that same day.

Referring to numbers cited by the president, Tobias said as of March 31, the Emergency Plan had supported anti-retroviral treatment for approximately 235,000 men, women and children through bilateral programs in the 15 of the most afflicted countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The annual goal has been exceeded by 35,000, he told his audience.

Of that number, he said, more than 230,000 of those being supported live in sub-Saharan Africa.

For additional information about the president's plan for AIDS relief, see HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html).

Following is the text of Ambassador Tobias' statement, as prepared for delivery:

Ambassador Randall Tobias
United States Global AIDS Coordinator

Opening Remarks at Press Conference on Treatment Results

Press Briefing Room
Department of State

Washington, D.C.

June 13, 2005

Good afternoon. I'm here to discuss the update the President provided earlier today on the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I'm grateful to the State Department for hosting today's briefing. As the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, I'm here today to represent the agencies that are implementing the Emergency Plan as a unified team, including the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Health and Human Services, Labor, State, the



Ambassador Randall Tobias

Peace Corps, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

For too long, AIDS sufferers in the developing world have had very limited access to the life-extending anti-retroviral treatment, or ART, that has been more widely available in the West. It was estimated that only 50,000 of the 4.1 million sub-Saharan Africans who could benefit from antiretroviral drugs were receiving them at the end of 2002.

However, in 2003, President Bush launched the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, with strong bipar-

tisan Congressional support. As results are reported from the field, it is increasingly clear that the launch of the Emergency Plan marked a turning point in the fight against HIV/AIDS. On the ground, the reality is changing -- rapidly.

As the President referenced today, as of March 31 of this year, the Emergency Plan has supported antiretroviral treatment for approximately 235,000 men, women, and children through bilateral programs in 15 of the most afflicted countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

Of that number, more than 230,000 of those being supported live in sub-Saharan Africa.

The goal set forth over a year ago was to support treatment for more than 200,000 people in these 15 countries by June 2005. So we didn't just exceed the goal by 35,000, we did it three months early. In my opinion, that is striking.

Looking ahead, these results indicate that the Emergency Plan remains on track, scaling up to meet the President's ambitious goal of supporting treatment for two million people in five years.

A particularly hopeful sign is that 57 percent of persons receiving treatment are women and girls, among the sites reporting such numbers. The United States is the only major donor to track treatment support by gender, and we will continue to work to ensure that women and girls have full access to prevention, treatment and care.

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Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Exceeding Goals . . .

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With these results, the U.S. continues to support treatment for more people than any other donor in the world, through our bilateral programs alone. That is in addition to our support for the programs of multilateral organizations that have treatment programs, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The U.S. remains by far the largest contributor to the Fund, providing one-third of its current resources. It's thus important to remember that one-third of the support for treatment provided by the Fund comes from the American people, in addition to the bilateral results announced today.

Now, how are we achieving these results? Two weeks ago, we held our second annual Field Meeting - this time in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, bringing together the people who do the work on the ground -- US government people, Ministry of Health officials in the countries where we are working, our international partners such as UNAIDS, the WHO, and the Global Fund, as well as some of our bilateral partners among the donor nations, and a number of NGOs. Our purpose was to share lessons learned, to find out what is working and what is not. The key to our success is clearly the work of the talented and dedicated people in-country, including the people of the host government and non-governmental sectors. The Emergency Plan is a vehicle for the American people to support their efforts, and the true credit rests with those working on the ground.

U.S. government field staff work closely with partners and friends to implement each host nation's

vision for fighting HIV/AIDS. The Emergency Plan is committed to working with national strategies to build capacity in-country: over 80% of our partners are indigenous organizations.

Only a locally-led response will be sustainable. The leadership and commitment to fighting AIDS in our host countries is strong and growing, and that is one of the most encouraging developments taking place today.

Let me comment on the spectrum of services required for quality treatment that we support. With our support, host nations are providing services that achieve results while at the same time building the local, sustainable capacity they need for national programs that will support their responses for the long term. The services and capacity expansion include:

- Training for clinical and laboratory personnel;

- Counselors for treatment regimen adherence, prevention and healthy living;

- Support for physical infrastructure including laboratory equipment; and

- Distribution, logistics and management systems for drugs and other commodities.

It's all important. As any clinician in the field will tell you, treatment requires far more than drugs alone, and the Emergency Plan recognizes that.

Treatment is so important because it brings hope that drives efforts in other areas such as pre-

vention, counseling, testing, and care. The Emergency Plan is committed to integrating all of these -- no one piece can stand alone.

We are committed to prevention. Our goal is to save lives before they are ever infected with the virus. The Emergency Plan will issue a program update on prevention activities, including behavior change approaches, Mother-to-Child prevention activities, and safe blood and safe medical injections programs later this month.

We are committed to encouraging all people to get counseling and be tested. Only by being tested and knowing your status is it possible to get help. The United States has supported HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services for over 3.5 million people.

We are committed to care. The Emergency Plan had set a goal to support care for over 1.1 million HIV positive persons and AIDS orphans and vulnerable children by June 2005. This goal was actually exceeded back in September 2004, nine months early. Updated care numbers from March will be available in the near future.

Clearly, I'm very encouraged by the progress that is being made. The numbers are important, but that's because each number represents a human being. For them, these programs are turning the despair of suffering and death to the hope of health and life. It's a privilege to be part of that.

I'd be happy to address your questions.

(end text) ♦

AIDS Policies Must Evolve to Meet "Second-Wave" Pandemic

By Bruce Greenberg
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- New challenges in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic involving so-called "second-wave" countries might alter present U.S. strategies to combat the disease, even as the work goes on to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in focus countries and beyond.

To address this evolving perspective on the disease, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a daylong symposium on June 7 to address "The HIV/AIDS Pandemic: the Second Wave." The program featured Michele Moloney-Kitts, chief of the program services division of the Office of U.S. Global Coordinator for HIV/AIDS and Victor Barbiero, chief of the implementation support division of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

China, India, Russia, Ethiopia and Nigeria are identified as second-wave countries in the fight against HIV/AIDS because they currently have low- to mid-level HIV infection rates. However, they stand on the brink of a major health-care catastrophe such as those that occurred in the sub-Saharan African nations of South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland when HIV leapt from marginal groups of intravenous drug users and sex workers into the general population.

According to a CSIS fact sheet, China and India, which have large populations, and to some extent Russia, pose a significant threat to the progress that has already been made in controlling new global infection rates and will require new

strategies for implementing prevention programs.

In introducing the discussion, the executive director of the CSIS Task Force on HIV/AIDS, J. Stephen Morrison, noted the erosion of the line between the 15 designated PEPFAR countries and the rest of the world, and asked what strategy the United States should employ with second-wave countries.

"We're seeing higher levels of engagement. Funding levels, in terms of scientific and medical assistance and sharing of information, are increasing in China, India and Russia." But, he added, the United States really hasn't "thought about what it means to have a grand health diplomacy that is sustained and has true capacity."

Both Moloney-Kitts and Barbiero referred to the need to work on many levels within host countries, place priority on preventative programs and deal with gender, religious and cultural issues to check the spread of the disease.

"Multi-sectoralism is very important," Moloney-Kitts said. "The United States must employ prevention and treatment programs that include not only national governments, but community-based resources in those countries given AIDS assistance."

It is equally important to run prevention campaigns since "far more are uninfected than infected, and the youth populations are incredibly important and we need to protect them, since these are the people entering their sexual years," she said.

At the same time, she explained, it is imperative to reach marginalized populations, deal with cultural and religious stigma, and address gender issues involving women and girls as well as change social norms around male behavior, "so that there is a real impact on the epidemic."

Moloney-Kitts also stressed there is a continuing process of sorting out what a PEPFAR-focus-group country is and is not, and what kind of AIDS assistance and prevention can be delivered to non-PEPFAR nations with which the United States has bilateral relations. "What we need to do is develop a more uniform policy," she emphasized, because, regardless of the country, the United States is firmly committed to prevention, care and treatment.

"We view ourselves as working in partnership with host governments to help implement their strategies and plans, making sure that this is not a vertical, standalone program, ... and we must remain flexible, and continue to evolve as we look at these big issues so we can adapt and change where necessary," Moloney-Kitts said.

Victor Barbiero noted there are the several federal agencies involved in carrying out the PEPFAR mandate, which have pooled their resources to identify in focus countries "the best niches that each one of us can fulfill," with the aim of lowering "the rate of transmission: level it in the near term, and decrease it in the long term."

Barbiero also stressed that prevention is the key, the anchor. "We

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AIDS Policies Must Evolve to Meet " . . .

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have to be able to prevent in order to keep the infection at bay. It's not a matter of resources [so much] as it is a matter of effort and priority, and clearly there is a prevention priority operating in the U.S. government [AIDS] strategy."

We also want to promote sound monitoring and evaluating without loading down new grantees with [elaborate] criteria, while keeping our eyes focused on service delivery, prevention among youth, the orphan issue and effective home-based care, he said. "Drug quality, availability, access to these drugs, and adherence [to protocols] are going to be keys to our success," he added.

Ultimately, he said, building institutional capacity, strengthening health systems and expanding local networks are priorities. Those elements, in addition to counseling, testing and

tracking, are the keys to sustainability of the prevention and treatment programs.

"HIV/AIDS can be stopped," Barbiero asserted. "It's a matter of time; it's a matter of science; it's a matter of commitment; it's a matter of communication; it's a matter of partnership; and it's a matter of compassion."

For additional information on U.S. efforts to combat the global pandemic, see HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

Africanists Concerned About Slipping Museveni . . .

(Continued from page 15)

constitution and relinquish power after two terms in office. The fear, he said is that Uganda is slipping back into "a big-government regime" that risks becoming another "African tragedy."

With official corruption on the increase and evidence of the use of strong-arm tactics to cow political opposition, Museveni is tarnishing the Ugandan success story and diminishing his position as a leader throughout Africa and among his supporters in the donor community.

Ugandan Minister for Internal Affairs Ruhakana Rugunda defended Museveni from what he viewed as

superficial attacks on a leader attempting to guide his nation through a difficult political transformation -- from movement to party politics. This task is a not an easy one, considering the political turmoil the nation has undergone over the past 20 years, he said.

Rugunda explained that Museveni's bid for a third term in 2006, which would require a change in the constitution, was an issue that has been debated intensely over the past two years. "We trust the will of the people to work," he said, noting that "there are constitutional provisions that call for the impeachment of the leader if he's not performing

well."

He also dismissed the issue of corruption on his personal knowledge of the president, whom he has known since they were both university students, and on policy grounds "because the fight against corruption was one of the main reasons why we waged war to liberate Uganda."

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